

alarmingly prevalent, as additional repressive Acts of Parliament in 1540 and 1543, and frequent burnings, hangings, forfeitures, expatriations, show. Equally conclusive is the testimony of the papal legate, Grimani, who visited Scotland in 1543. "The realm," he writes, "is so full of heresy, that, but for the interposition of God, it will soon become as bad as England." "Heretikis," laments the Act of 1543, "mair and mair rises and spredis within this realme, sawand damnable opinions in contrar the fayth and lawis of halykirk, actes, and institutions of this realme." Towns like Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Ayr, were discovered to be nests of heretics. The execution by burning or hanging of batches of these staunch confessors at Edinburgh in 1539, at Perth in 1544, failed to stem the flowing tide of rebellion against the cardinal's coercive policy. Images were broken, even monasteries sacked, sermons openly preached to large crowds, in spite of stake and gallows. Among the boldest of the preachers was George Wishart, who held forth from the pulpit and from the top of the Cowgate Port to the people of Dundee, within a few miles of the cardinal's metropolitan city of St Andrews. Wishart, like Hamilton, was a man of high culture, and, like him, had been driven into exile for his faith. He is found sojourning for a season at Zurich, Basel, Strassburg, and, as in the case of Hamilton, the tendency of his interviews with the divines of these cities was to beget a yearning to return and testify once more in his native land. From Dundee, which he chose as the centre of his labours, he made preaching tours in Angus, the Mearns, Ayrshire, and the Lothians, exhorting the people, in the impassioned style of the evangelist, to repent and be converted. It was at Ormiston, in East Lothian, that he was arrested by the Earl of Bothwell, sheriff of the county, and from Ormiston he was carried to St Andrews, to dispute with a conference of bishops and doctors, and to suffer the fate and emulate the constancy of the proto-martyr of the Scottish Reformation, whom in character and attainments he closely resembled. Beaton, it is averred by some of his champions, had reason to see in Wishart a traitor as well as a heretic. A certain George Wishart appears as an emissary of the men who were favourable to the English alliance, were intriguing to forward Henry VIII.'s unionist